

ABSTRACT

A novel method of treating and preventing diseases is provided. In particular, compositions and methods of blocking diseases associated with aberrant levels of nitric
5 oxide and facilitated by a serine proteolytic (SP) activity are disclosed, which consist of administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a serine protease inhibitory activity. Among effective compounds are α_1 -antitrypsin and synthetic drugs mimicking some or all of the actions of α_1 -antitrypsin.

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